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OLD TESTAMENT NOTES AND NOTICES.

Dr. Ginsburg, the celebrated Massoretic scholar, has gone to Madrid to collate some important Hebrew MSS., before beginning Vol. IV. of *The Massora*, etc.

Rev. Dr. Selah Merrill, late American consul at Jerusalem, proposes to enter the lecture field. His lectures on Palestine will sum up the results of twenty years of study, with the advantage of seven or eight years' residence in that country.

A new periodical, to be published at Breslau, in the interests of Talmudic studies, will be entitled *Zeitschrift fuer die gesammte Wissenschaft des Talmuds*. Papers on Talmudic philosophy, science, jurisprudence, ethics, etc., will be furnished by both Christian and Jewish writers.

The newly-elected Professor of Rabbinical Literature at Columbia College, Dr. Richard J. H. Gottheil, offers the following courses: 1. Introduction to the Mishna. 2. The Targums on Isaiah, with Aramaic Grammar. 3. The Midrash Rabba on Deuteronomy. 4. Kimchi's Hebrew Grammar in the original.

Prof. Samuel Ives Curtiss has an interesting article in the November *Expositor* on "The History of Israel from the Standpoint of Modern Criticism." The views presented in Stade's *Geschichte des Volkes Israel*, and Wellhausen's *Prolegomena* are considered. The treatment is fresh and thoroughly conservative.

Messrs. Bagster & Sons are about to issue a new edition of *The Records of the Past*, under the editorship of Prof. A. H. Sayce, of Oxford. In the new series, the introductions and the historical and geographical notes will be much fuller than in the old. Special attention will also be drawn to the illustrations of Scripture furnished by the monumental records. Le Page Renouf, Maspero, Pinches, Oppert, Amiaud and others have already promised their assistance in the work. This new edition will be of great value to those students who are not able to make use of the originals.

In connection with the University of Berlin, a new Oriental Seminary has recently been opened, a joint project of the Prussian and the general German governments. This seminary is not to take the place of the Oriental department in the university, but rather to supplement it. The object is to impart to missionaries, consuls, dragomen, and others, a practical knowledge of the Eastern languages. The scientific investigation of these tongues will continue to be the work of the regular university men. For each language two teachers have been appointed, a German to impart the theoretical instruction and a native for the practical drill. A number of these interesting strangers have already arrived at the German capital. For the present, instruction is given in Chinese, Japanese, Persian, Hindostani and Arabic. Professor Sachau, the famous Syriac scholar, is the director. The seminary opened with an attendance of 180 students.

It is almost a tradition among biblical scholars that the cedars of Lebanon are constantly decreasing in number. It is pleasant news to hear that this is not the case, at least not of those at Bsherre. These were examined very carefully by a German specialist in forestry, Dr. Leo Anderlind, and he publishes his conclusions in the second *Heft* of the journal of the German Palestine Society for 1887. He states that in 1573 the physician and botanist, Ranwolff, found there only 24 trees; Burkhardt, in 1810, found 300 small trees, 50 of medium size, and 25 of very large size. The geologist, Fraas, in 1874, reported about the same number; Anderlind carefully counted them and found that there were 397 trees in all. Of these only 24 were in a poor condition. The oldest of these trees he regards as about 3000 years old. He says that he never saw larger trees, and is of the opinion that it would be an easy thing to cultivate the cedars according to forestry ways. All but 8 of these 397 trees are surrounded by a stone wall, and he suggests that a competent man be appointed to live on the grounds and take care of them; the income of the trees that could each year be chopped down would pay the expenses. At present all the young trees, as they come out of the ground, are eaten by the goats and the sheep.

“The Inductive Bible-studies” which began in the September STUDENT are already used in classes, or by students for work outside of college, in many institutions of learning, both theological and literary. Of these the following is a partial list: Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.; Auburn Theol. Seminary, Auburn, N. Y.; Battle Creek College, Battle Creek, Mich.; University of California, Berkeley, Cal.; Bangor Theol. Seminary, Bangor, Me.; Gannett Institute, Boston, Mass.; Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me.; Crozer Theol. Seminary, Chester, Pa.; Chicago Theol. Seminary, Chicago, Ill.; McCormick Theol. Seminary, Chicago, Ill.; Lane Theol. Seminary, Cincinnati, O.; Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa.; Concordia College, Canover, N. C.; Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.; Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; Parson’s College, Fairfield, Iowa; Franklin College, Franklin, Ind.; Hamilton Theol. Seminary, Hamilton, N. Y.; Madison University, Hamilton, N. Y.; Hampden Sidney College, Hampden Sidney, Va.; Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.; Hartford Theol. Seminary, Hartford, Conn.; Hiram College, Hiram, O.; Hope College, Holland, Mich.; Butler University, Irvington, Ind.; Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Queens University, Kingston, Can.; Lancaster Theol. Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.; Washington and Lee College, Lexington, Va.; University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; Mt. Hermon School, Mt. Hermon, Mass.; Mt. Lebanon College, Mt. Lebanon, La.; Baptist Union Theol. Seminary, Morgan Park, Ill.; Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.; Rutgers’ College, New Brunswick, N. J.; Theol. Seminary, New Brunswick, N. J.; Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; Newton Theol. Institution, Newton Centre, Mass.; Union Theol. Seminary, New York City; Oberlin College, Oberlin, O.; Oberlin Theol. Seminary, Oberlin, O.; Ottawa College, Ottawa, Kan.; Lake Erie Seminary, Painesville, O.; P. E. Divinity School, Philadelphia, Pa.; Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Princeton Theol. Seminary, Princeton, N. J.; Brown University, Providence, R. I.; Rochester Theol. Seminary, Rochester, N. Y.; Augustana Theol. Seminary, Rock Island, Ill.; Trinity University, Tehuacana, Tex.; Theol. Seminary, Theol. Seminary, Va.; Washburn College, Topeka, Kan.; Knox College, Toronto, Can.; MacMaster College, Toronto, Can.; School of Christian Workers, Springfield, Mass.; Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.; Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.